

Progress Summary: IUSSP Family Planning, Fertility and Urban Development Program (October 2021)

The Family Planning, Fertility and Urban Development program, guided by a Scientific Advisory Panel co-chaired by John Cleland and Trudy Harpham and funded by the BMGF, has made substantial progress since its initiation in 2018. It has a three-pronged focus: to support high-quality studies, to promote the policy relevance of the studies' results, and to create a cadre of dynamic early-career African researchers well-trained in policy outreach working in this area.

- **Research Fellows:** Fifteen post-doctoral Fellows were selected after a rigorous competitive selection process: four in round one and 11 in round two. All four of the initial Fellows have published in peer-reviewed journals and made efforts to promote the use of their findings by real-world decision makers. Please see descriptions of the Fellows and their studies: [Cohort 1](#) and [Cohort 2](#). Several of the original study timelines have had to be revised due to Covid-related restrictions on in-person data collection; the new project end date is now December 31, 2022. This will give Fellows the opportunity to travel to the International Conference on Family Planning in Thailand in November 2022, where they will participate in a final project workshop. All Fellows received training by APHRC/Kenya in making their research more policy-relevant to decision makers.

Prof. Harpham, co-chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel, has published one article about the project in a journal aimed at development practitioners: Trudy Harpham et al (2021) Bridging the gaps sector to sector and research to policy: linking family planning to urban development, *Development in Practice*, 31:6, 794-804, DOI: [10.1080/09614524.2021.1937560](https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2021.1937560)

- She is leading another group of co-authors on a second comparative article, soon to be submitted to a journal with an urban focus.
- The project organized two panels at the ISUH conference in Xiamen (China, October 2019), a session at the UAPS conference (Entebbe, Uganda, November 2019), and another session at the IUSSP IPC virtual conference in December 2021. In addition, six Fellows have had individual presentations or posters accepted for the IUSSP's IPC.